



As much as within these few dayes there haue been certaine infamous Libels full of malice and falshood spread abroad, and set vp in sundry places about the Citie and Court, tending to sedition, and dishonourable interpretations of her Maiesties godly Actions and purposes, and especially inuented of cankered malice colourably, to the destruction or ruine of some of good estimation and fidelitie towards her Maiestie, by lewd persons not worthy to enioy the benefit of this her Maiesties quiet government, no more then euill and corrupt limmes, which for lacke of speedie remedie may infect more of the body; The sufferance whereof cannot but breed a further disorder to the good quietnesse of her Maiesties most peaceable government. And because her Maiestie would haue such villanous, treasonable and seditious attempts both repressed and punished, and also would come to some certaintie for the discovering of the Authoꝝ thereof, whereby she would not enter into any scruple of suspition of any other manner of person then the offenders or their partners: Therefore her Maiestie willeth, that whosoever can, and will discover the Authoꝝ or partners of those Libels, and will open it to her Maiestie, or to some Attendant about her Person, the same shall be rewarded in this sort: If the partie that shall discover the same be vnder the degree of a Gentleman, he shall haue forthwith fortie pounds; and if he bee a Gentleman, he shall haue one hundred pounds: And if hereafter it shall be proued, that any person hath been in any wise priuie hereto, and shall not now very shortly after this Proclamation discover it, the same shall at no time hereafter be thereof pardoned. And furthermore, her Maiestie chargeth all manner of persons that shall hereafter at any time finde any such seditious Billes, to bring the same to the Lord Maior of London, or to some speciall officer of London, or of any other Towne where such shall be found. And if the same shall be found in or about the Court, then to be secretly brought to some of her Maiesties Councillers, or other her faithfull seruants attendant about her Person, vpon paine, that if any bee found remisse herein, then the same to receiue such like punishment as the Authoꝝ of seditious Libels ought to doe. For her Maiestie cannot thinke that these things are so much giuen out in respect of any priuate persons as they are in contempt of the present government and proceedings, wherein her Maiestie cannot but find her selfe touched.

Giuen at her Maiesties Palace of Westminster, the 26. day of March 1576.
in the xvij. yeere of her Maiesties Reigne.

God saue the Queene.

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Cum Priuilegio Regie Maiestatis.